

# THE OUTCROP.

**\$2.00 Per Year.**

J. F. HAN

## THE OUTCROP.

Published Every Thursday in the heart of a Wonderfully Rich Mineral and Agricultural District.  
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W. P. EVANS,

Publisher and Proprietor.

WILMER, B.C., THURSDAY, MARCH 1, 1906.

### Advantages of Game.

A. B. Williams, provincial game warden, has issued a splendid report, from which the appended is taken:

There is no doubt that big game all over the world is becoming scarcer every year, while the number of sportsmen is increasing, and, in consequence, more and more difficulty is found in obtaining good shooting, so that it can only be a matter of a few years when those countries that do not have strict preservation of their game will not have any game at all, and those that do will reap a rich harvest from the number of people who will come to hunt.

British Columbia still has a splendid stock of game, and in spite of the great amount of slaughter during the last few years, there is but little doubt that it is the best all round country for sport on the continent. Where else can sportsmen go and find the same variety of big game, moose, wapiti, sheep, caribou, goat, deer, grizzly, black and brown bear, wolves, panthers, racoons, lynx, and wild cats, to say nothing of the small game, which embraces, some of the best snipe shooting in the world, duck and geese, as well as pheasants, prairie chicken and other species of grouse, quail and in a few years European partridges may be added to the list. In addition to the sport with rifle and shot gun, we have such salmon fishing as is unknown elsewhere, and trout and grayling fishing unsurpassed in any other country. When every branch of sport is taken into consideration, I do not think I should have erred had I called it the best game country in the world, and not only on the continent.

And yet, in spite of all the advantages the country can offer, what does it receive in the way of revenue from its game, and what benefit is it to the people living in the province? With the exception of the men who shoot birds, and those who provide outfits or act as guides for the tourists who come, the only people who really benefit are the Indians and prospectors. The province, at present, gets practically nothing in the way of revenue. During the season of 1905 only 35 non-residents paid for a hunting license, and though it is likely that a few more evaded the fee, still their number would not have made any material difference. The amount of revenue from these people amounted to \$1,750, which is nothing compared with the amount collected in the state of Maine in 1903, where hunting licenses were taken out by 1,697 non-residents, producing a total revenue of \$24,465. It is even very small compared with the amount collected in New Brunswick, where 338 non-residents paid the sum of \$10,140, and it is absolutely absurd compared with the total revenue collected in the states of Illinois and Wisconsin for the year 1903, which aggregated the enormous sums of \$98,750 and \$90,169, respectively. These latter figures include a residents' license of \$1 a head.

Yet British Columbia is a better game country than all the states mentioned put together, and could afford sport to at least as many visitors as the state of Maine, or half a dozen similar states. Had we the number of visitors the sport of the country would entitle us to expect, the actual amount collected as revenue would be a small thing compared with the amount expended by tourists in guides, horses, hotels, etc., and which would benefit every body directly or indirectly. It is very seldom that a man comes into this country to shoot big game without leaving \$1,500 behind him, and more often it is double that amount; while in addition to this, it is quite a frequent occurrence that a man who comes here simply and solely to shoot, while he is here sees the commercial advantages of the country, and not only invests money himself, but advises his friends to do likewise, and generally advertises the country. Such men as these, even if they came in numbers, would hardly make any difference to the amount of game; they only want a few specimen heads and shoot only those worth mounting. A good many of them are content with less than the amount they are allowed to kill, while others shoot nothing unless they think it is a record head. In addition to the tourist class, there are a great

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## Kootenay Central

The ruling below can scarcely be called a map, still it will give some idea of the situation of this country in connection with the main line of the C. P. R. and the C. N. P. R. which the Kootenay Central Railway will connect.

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WILMER, - - - B. C.

### Advantages of Game.

(Conclude from Third Page)  
number of people of fair means who, possibly, cannot afford to live in Europe and indulge in sport, which there costs large sums; these people are always looking for a country in which they can settle and get some good sport at a moderate cost. There is no doubt that a few people have already come out here on that account, and more will follow when they know what a good country for sport this is, and they hear that the game is well looked after.

Now, why does British Columbia attract so much less than its fair share of wealthy sportsmen, to whom distance and expense are no object when sport is in question? There are several reasons, first of all, because so little is really known of the country. A few people have been here, but of those few the percentage who have got any sport is very small. The chances are they arrive here perfect strangers, with only a faint idea of where to go or how to get guides and outfits; there has been nobody in authority to whom to apply for information; they ask the hotel clerk or porter, who has very likely about as much knowledge of the subject as themselves, and finally go off and follow a more or less beaten track. Wherever they go they find Indians ahead of them, prospectors killing indiscriminately, or hunters who make a living by selling meat and heads. These people have gone away in disgust and warned others not to come.

To obtain a specimen of the mountain sheep and a few more minor trophies, it costs a non-resident at least \$800, while a good many people have spent several thousands and not obtained one head; and yet ewes have been killed in hundreds by Indians and prospectors, who prefer the meat to any other kind, and the rams have been slaughtered simply and solely for their heads, which fetch \$20 to \$50 each, and the meat left because the ewes are considered better eating. This should make it plain to everybody that big game, and especially sheep, is too valuable to the country to be ruthlessly destroyed by Indians, prospectors and market hunters. It is possible that it may be necessary to allow a little laxity to prospectors in certain districts, but it should only be where it is absolutely essential to obtain food, and then only under hard and fast conditions.

To bring people into this country we must, however, first and foremost protect our game; to do this there ought to be a certain number of paid deputy game wardens. It is out of the question to expect one man, even with the assistance the provincial police can spare, to do it all. A considerable amount of money must be spent for a few years and a thorough system of protection instituted. Then the fact that game is here and is being protected must be extensively advertised all over the world.

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